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## Press release

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### **Rio Tinto's Argyle Pink Diamond Tiara plays tribute to past and present crown jewels**

**Perth, June 24, 2010** - Rio Tinto's rare Argyle pink diamonds today made a royal debut at the Masterpieces London Fair, a unique showcase of the most covetable objects on earth.

The one-of-a-kind Argyle Pink Diamond Tiara, displayed by iconic jeweller Asprey, features 178 Argyle pink diamonds and showcases the beautiful appeal of the rarest diamonds in the world. Commenting on the design of the Argyle Pink Diamond Tiara, Authorised Partner of Argyle Pink Diamonds, Mr John Glajz, said,

"The Argyle Pink Diamond Tiara combines the mystique and romance of a bygone era with the design of a contemporary treasure. This is truly a unique piece that showcases beautifully the colours, sizes and shapes of rare pink diamonds from the Argyle mine."

Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond Mine in remote Western Australia produces virtually the entire supply of the world's rare pink diamonds. The Argyle Pink Diamond Tiara is a reflection of the importance of exclusive design and quality craftsmanship when transforming these rare and precious diamonds into important pieces of jewellery. According to Josephine Archer, Business Manager for Argyle Pink Diamonds,

"We are delighted with the design of the tiara which has the simple yet subtle mystique that all great jewels should have. "

The Argyle Pink Diamond tiara will be on display at the Asprey showcase (Stand A6) at Masterpieces, London from June 24-29, along with other rare Argyle pink diamonds and pink diamond jewellery.

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For further information and images on the Argyle Pink Diamond Tiara, please contact:

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### **Notes to editors**

### **About Argyle Pink Diamonds**

Pink Diamonds, produced at Rio Tinto's Argyle Mine in Western Australia, are highly coveted as the world's most sought after gems. The Argyle Diamond mine produces more than 90 per cent of the world's pink diamonds, which are sold in a broad range of colours and sizes to an international customer base. The best stones are reserved for the annual Pink Diamond Tender. Rio Tinto's Argyle Pink Diamonds business is located in Perth, Western Australia, alongside its cutting and polishing factory.

Pink diamonds' value is directly related to their rarity. For every coloured diamond, there exists at least 10,000 colourless ones. The physical conditions needed to colour a diamond naturally are very rare.

Rio Tinto's Argyle mine occupies the traditional land of the Gidja and Mirriuwong speaking people and neighbouring language groups who have a very different view on how the Argyle diamonds became coloured. The Aboriginal people believe that the Argyle mine was created when three women were trying to trap a barramundi fish, however the barramundi was too clever and jumped through the net and landed at the site where the mine was established. It is believed that the colours of the diamonds come from different parts of the barramundi as the fish wiggled through the net, with the pink diamonds coming from the heart of the barramundi.

Website: [www.argylepinkdiamonds.com.au](http://www.argylepinkdiamonds.com.au)

### **About Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond Mine**

**Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond Mine** (100% owned by Rio Tinto), in Australia, is the world's only consistent supplier of rare pink diamonds and provides a large proportion of the world's coloured diamonds. Production commenced in 1983 and at its peak the mine produced more than 40 million carats per annum.

The discovery of the Argyle diamond deposit is one of innovation, patience, foresight and meticulous attention to detail in an area that is remote, even for Australians. The search for diamonds in the Kimberley region began in 1972 with a number of exciting finds proving

uneconomic. However, in October 1979 diamonds were found embedded in an ant hill in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia.

In a classic exploration exercise these discoveries were followed up along a creek bed and led to what is known as the AK1 pipe, the remnant of an ancient volcano and the site of the vast Argyle deposit. Today most of the valley floor is occupied by the Argyle open pit. The Argyle Diamond mine is currently transitioning from an open pit mine to an underground mine, which on current estimates will extend its life to 2018.

### **About Rio Tinto Diamonds**

Rio Tinto is one of the world's major diamond producers through its 100 per cent control of the Argyle mine in Australia, 60 per cent of the Diavik mine in Canada and a 78 per cent interest in the Murowa mine in Africa. These three mines allow Rio Tinto to be present in all segments of the market. Rio Tinto also has an advanced diamond project in India. Rio Tinto's share of the production from its three operating mines is sold through its Diamonds Sales and Marketing headquarters in Antwerp, Belgium.

Rio Tinto Diamonds is a leading supporter of the Kimberley Process as well as a founding member of Responsible Jewellery Council.

Website: [www.riotintodiamonds.com](http://www.riotintodiamonds.com)

### **About Rio Tinto**

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the UK, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminium, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

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